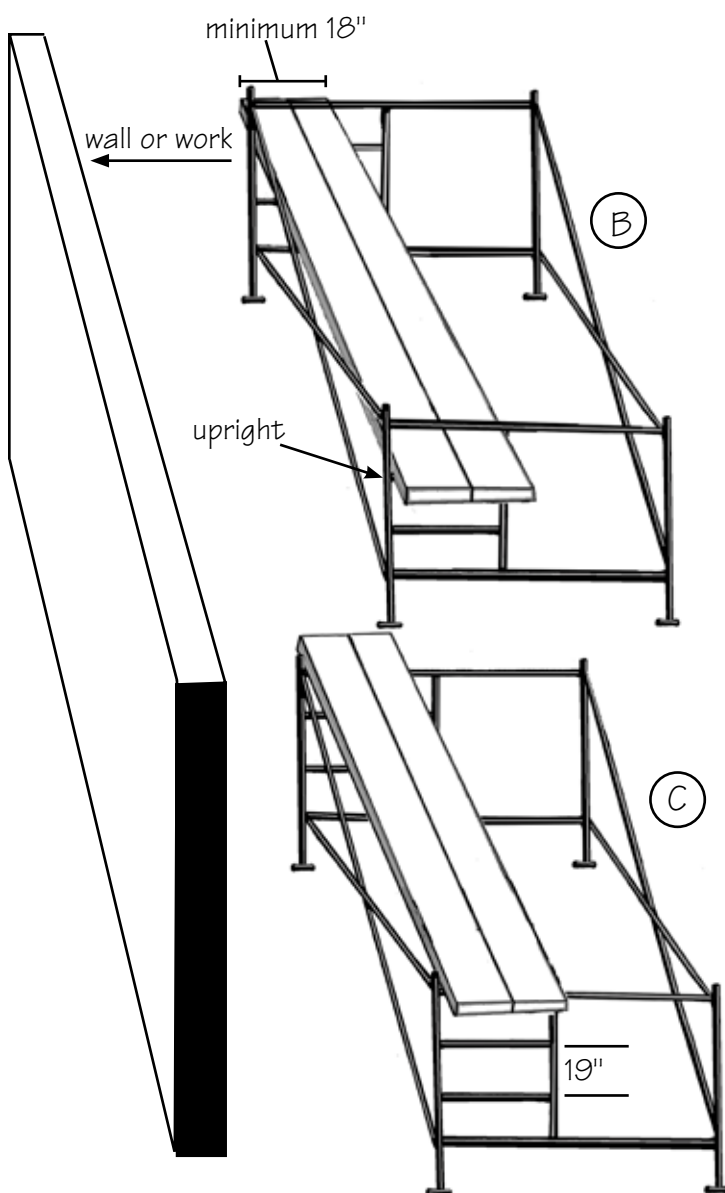
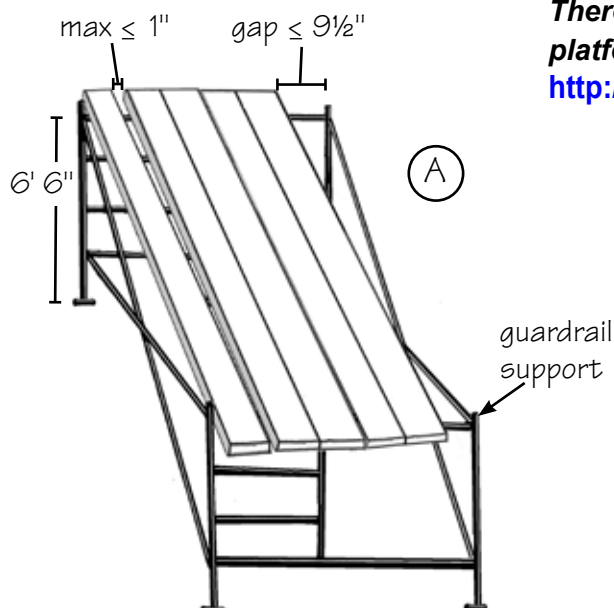


Question: Does a welded frame scaffold, less than 10 feet in height, have to be fully planked from the front upright to the back upright?

There are two rule relationships for this discussion: platforms and fall protection on scaffolds.

http://www.cbs.state.or.us/osh/pdf/rules/division_3/div3I.pdf



1926.451(b)(1), scaffold platform construction requires that all working platforms at all levels must be fully planked or decked between the upright and guardrail supports. The planking or decking shall be placed as close together as possible so that there is no gap between the outermost plank edge and the guardrail support. When the space is unavoidable, it shall not exceed 9½ inches.

1926.451(g)(1), scaffolds more than 10 feet above the next lower level **require protection** from falling to a lower level. The fall protection requirement at 10 feet is independent of the requirement for platform planking or decking. The holes and gaps as described in (b)(1)(i)&(ii) can be contributing factors to falling, so they must be at a minimum.

Illustration “A” is a working platform fully planked and decked as required by 1926.451(b)(1), no violation. It also illustrates the planking maximum allowed widths as it relates to gaps.

Illustrations “B” and “C” show two different working levels with no fall protection requirement.

Illustration “B” shows the working level fully planked or decked at a height 19 inches lower than **Illustrations “A” and “C”** – no violation. All three illustrations have at least 18-inch working platforms, as required by 1926.451(b)(2), that pose the same fall hazard.

Answer:

A welded frame scaffold, less than 10 feet in height, as shown in **Illustration “C”** should be considered a minimal or technical violation when the working platform is at least 18 inches wide.